

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:AORG, APER, SG, UNESCO (M'BOW, A.)

SUBJECT: DIRECTOR-GENERAL SUCCESSION ISSUE

1. CHEIKH TIDJANE SY (SENEGAL) OF UNESCO SECRETARIAT VISITED ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM AUGUST 28 TO URGE US SUPPORT FOR M'BOW'S CANDIDACY FOR DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF UNESCO. SY HAS JUST FINISHED TOUR OF SEVERAL LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES ON PROPOSED REGIONAL PROJECT IN HIGHER EDUCATION, AND TOOK ADVANTAGE OF TRIP TO MAKE THIS APPROACH ON M'BOW'S BEHALF.

2. SY SAID HE WISHED CONVEY MESSAGE FROM M'BOW OF WHICH ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS ARE AS FOLLOW: A) UNESCO HAS IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN UN SYSTEM AND US SUPPORT FOR UNESCO EXTREMELY IMPORTANT; B) US HAS PLAYED CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN PAST AND M'BOW LOOKS FOR IT TO CONTINUE; C) M'BOW AWARE OF PROBLEMS OF CONCERN TO US AND OTHER MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS AND THEREFORE WOULD WANT TO MAINTAIN CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THEM AND US IN PARTICULAR; D) REGARDLESS

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OF WHO WILL BE NEXT DG, THAT PERSON WILL NEED US SUPPORT;

E) M'BOW, IF ELECTED, HOPED TO HAVE AMERICAN AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL, EITHER PRESENT INCUMBENT OR ANOTHER PERSON AS DESIRED BY US. SY SAID HE DID NOT EXPECT US COMMITMENT NOW TO SUPPORT M'BOW, BUT HOPED HE COULD REPORT BACK OUR SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING.

2. DURING CONVERSATION, FOLLOWING POINTS MADE BY NEWSOM AND OTHERS PRESENT: A) WE AWARE OF M'BOW'S EXCELLENT QUALIFICATIONS AND HIS CANDIDACY, AND IN FACT BELIEVE HIM TO BE GOOD CANDIDATE; B) US OPERATING UNDER ASSUMPTION THAT THERE WILL BE NEW DIRECTOR-GENERAL ELECTED IN 1974; C) WE PLEASED THAT WE HAD BEEN FIRST TO INQUIRE ABOUT M'BOW'S AVAILABILITY; D) WE AWARE OF CONTRADICTORY SIGNALS BEING SENT BY MAHEU ABOUT HIS INTENTIONS; E) WE URGED THAT M'BOW'S CANDIDACY BE MADE KNOWN PRIVATELY DURING 93RD EXECUTIVE BOARD AND SAID THAT EARLY ENDORSEMENT BY AFRICAN GROUP AT UNESCO AND BY OAU WAS DESIRABLE IN ORDER THAT WE COULD THEN TAKE FINAL POSITION.

3. SY AGREED THAT MAHEU SEEMED TO WISH TO EXTEND HIS TERM OF OFFICE FOR TWO YEARS, BUT STATED THAT MAHEU TOLD M'BOW RECENTLY THAT HE (MAHEU) WOULD NOT ASK TO BE REELECTED. M'BOW THEREFORE DOES NOT FEEL HIMSELF BOUND ANY LONGER BY "LOYALTY" AND FREE TO LAUNCH HIS CANDIDACY EVEN THOUGH MAHEU MIGHT CONTINUE MANEUVER BEHIND SCENES. SY CLAIMED M'BOW'S POSSIBLE CANDIDACY WAS CONSIDERED AT OAU SUMMIT IN ADDIS ABABA IN MAY, BUT NO DECISION MADE SINCE M'BOW HAD NOT YET DECIDED RUN. M'BOW HAS NOW, HOWEVER, INFORMED PRESIDENT SENGHOR THAT HE CONSIDERS HIMSELF FREE TO RUN AFTER HIS CONVERSATION WITH MAHEU, WHICH IN TURN PROMPTED SENGHOR TO SEEK AND OBTAIN OAU SUPPORT.

4. PREVIOUS INSTRUCTIONS TO PERMREP ON US POSITION ON M'BOW'S CANDIDACY THEREFORE REMAIN UNCHANGED. ROGERS

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